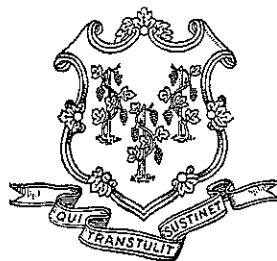


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State of Connecticut

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Twenty-second District

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Employment Advancement Committee

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Commerce Committee
General Law Committee

Testimony of State Senator Anthony J. Musto (S22)
to the Energy & Technology Committee in support of:

SB 461, AAC Siting Council Proceedings and Decisions, and
SB 462, AAC Power Plant Safety
March 18, 2010

Good Afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, and Members of the Energy & Technology Committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in favor of two bills of great concern to me and the people of Bridgeport, Monroe, and Trumbull; SB 461 – An Act Concerning Siting Council Proceedings and Decisions, and SB 462 – An Act Concerning Power Plant Safety.

First, I strongly encourage you to vote favorably on SB 461 – An Act Concerning Siting Council Proceedings and Decisions. This measure would ensure that the people of Connecticut have their voices heard before an important decision is made, such as the siting of a power plant in a residential area. As legislators, we need to make sure we give the Siting Council the authority to consider neighborhood characteristics in siting decisions.

We live in a time where we have the technology and resources to run the most transparent and participatory democracy in the world and we need to do everything we can to ensure that we realize that potential. Giving people a chance to speak about a proposal that affects their town, neighborhood, and family is a welcome and overdue change and I look forward to seeing the measure become law.

I also urge your support for SB 462 – An Act Concerning Power Plant Safety. We have seen from the recent tragic accident in Middletown that these facilities are dangerous, and in need of serious and comprehensive oversight.

I strongly believe that it is extremely important that this measure include strong regulations over any power generation system that uses natural gas as a fuel source. Our constituents look to us to lead the way when it comes to public safety and I believe that including natural gas fueled power plants in this proposal would go a long way to living up to that expectation.

I thank you again for the opportunity to address the committee on this matter and I look forward to working with you to pass these important and timely proposals.